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Gajendra Moksha

This story is about elephant Gajendra who was King Indradyumna in his past life and

was cursed by Agastya rishi to become an elephant.



Once, Gajendra, the leader of the elephants
frolicked in a lake near Trikuta Mountain
with his female elephants.



A crocodile in the lake caught Gajendra's leg.
Gajendra struggled for many years to free
him self. Finally, he prayed to Lord Vishnu for
help.



Gajendra offered a lotus flower to Lord Vishnu and offered many prayers.



Pleased with Gajendra's prayers, Lord Visnu appeared on the back of Garuda.



Lord Visnu, immediately cut the crocodile's head with His disc pulled Gajendra out of the lake.



Touched by Lord Visnu's disc, the crocodile regained his previous Gandharva body.



The crocodile was King Huhu in his past life and was cursed by Devala rishi to become a crocodile.



Gajendra who received a spiritual body
returned back to Godhead.



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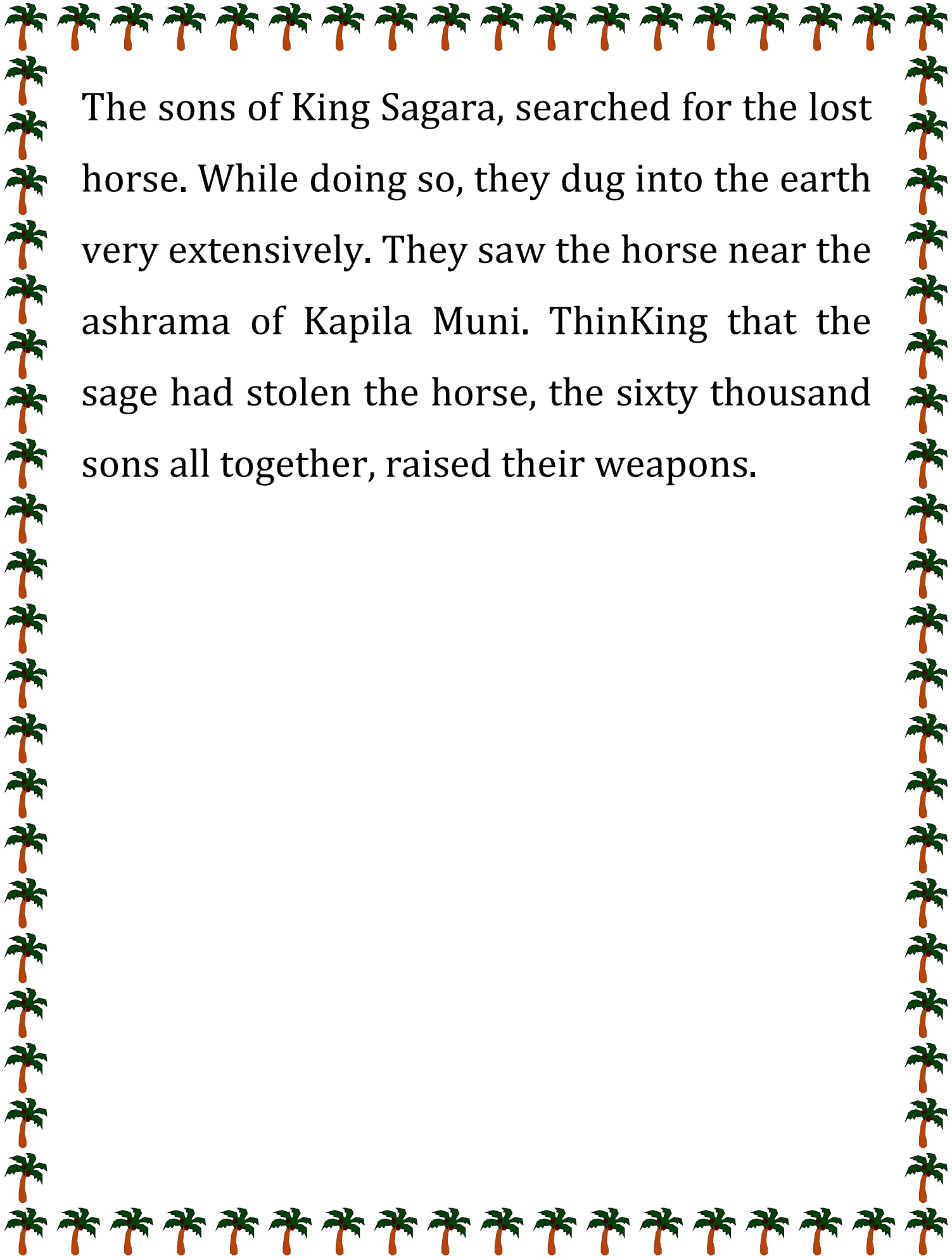
Ganga

Once, King Sagara performed a horse sacrifice to satisfy Lord Vishnu.



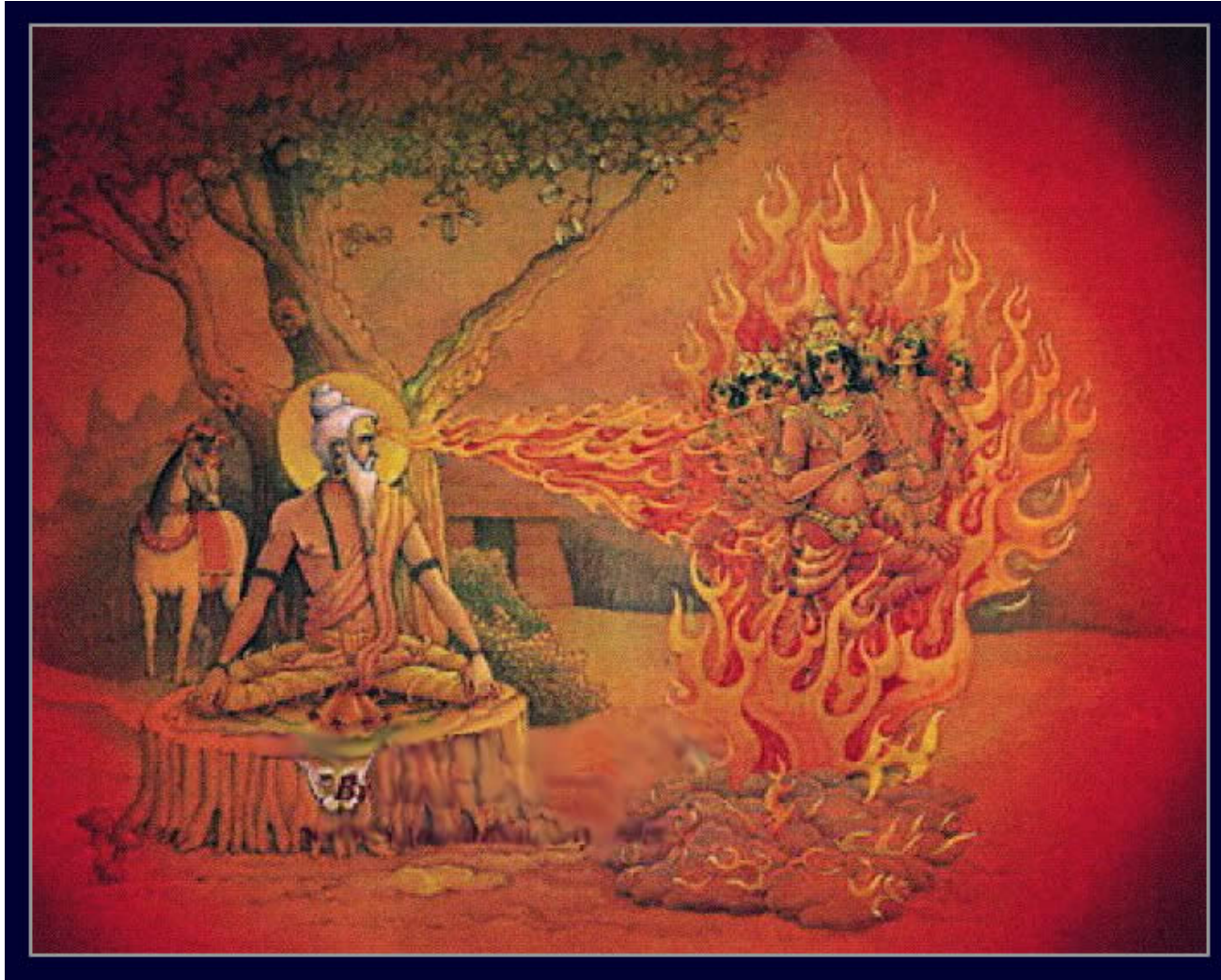
Being envious of King Sagara, Indra stole the horse meant to be offered at the sacrifice.





The sons of King Sagara, searched for the lost horse. While doing so, they dug into the earth very extensively. They saw the horse near the ashrama of Kapila Muni. Thinking that the sage had stolen the horse, the sixty thousand sons all together, raised their weapons.

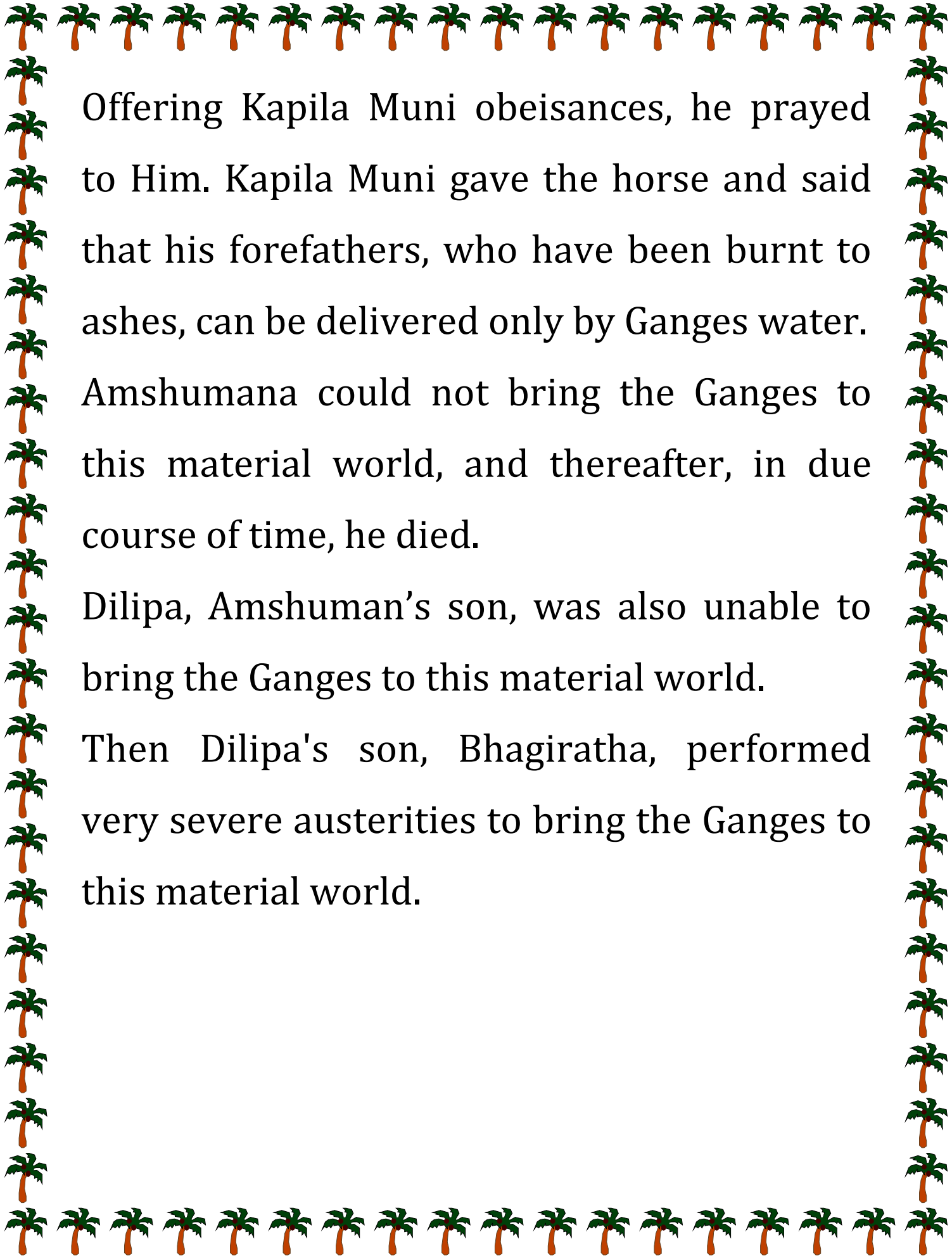
When they approached the sage, the sage opened His eyes and immediately burned them all to ashes.



Thereafter, King Sagara ordered his grandson, Amshuman to search for the horse. Following the same path traversed by his

uncles, he reached the stack of ashes, where he also found the horse. He saw Kapila Muni, sitting there by the horse.



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Offering Kapila Muni obeisances, he prayed to Him. Kapila Muni gave the horse and said that his forefathers, who have been burnt to ashes, can be delivered only by Ganges water.

Amshumana could not bring the Ganges to this material world, and thereafter, in due course of time, he died.

Dilipa, Amshuman's son, was also unable to bring the Ganges to this material world.

Then Dilipa's son, Bhagiratha, performed very severe austerities to bring the Ganges to this material world.

Pleased with Bhagiratha, Mother Ganga
agreed to descend on earth.



Bhagiratha also satisfied Lord Shiva by performing austerities and requested him to sustain the forceful waves of the Ganges.



Accepting Bhagiratha's request, Lord Shiva with great attention sustained the Ganges on His head.



The sons of King Sagara had offended Kapila Muni, and they were burnt to ashes. But simply by being sprinkled with water from the Ganges, all of them became eligible to go to the heavenly planets.



Because mother Ganges emanates from the lotus toe of the Lord Anantadeva, she is able to liberate one from material bondage.

Ĵaya

Vijaya

Once, Jaya and Vijaya, the two doorkeepers of Vaikuntha stopped the four Kumaras at the gate of Vaikuntha.



In anger, the four Kumaras cursed Jaya and Vijaya to fall from Vaikuntha. Hearing the curse Lord Vishnu immediately went there.



Lord Vishnu said to Jaya and Vijaya that it was with His consent that such a curse happened.



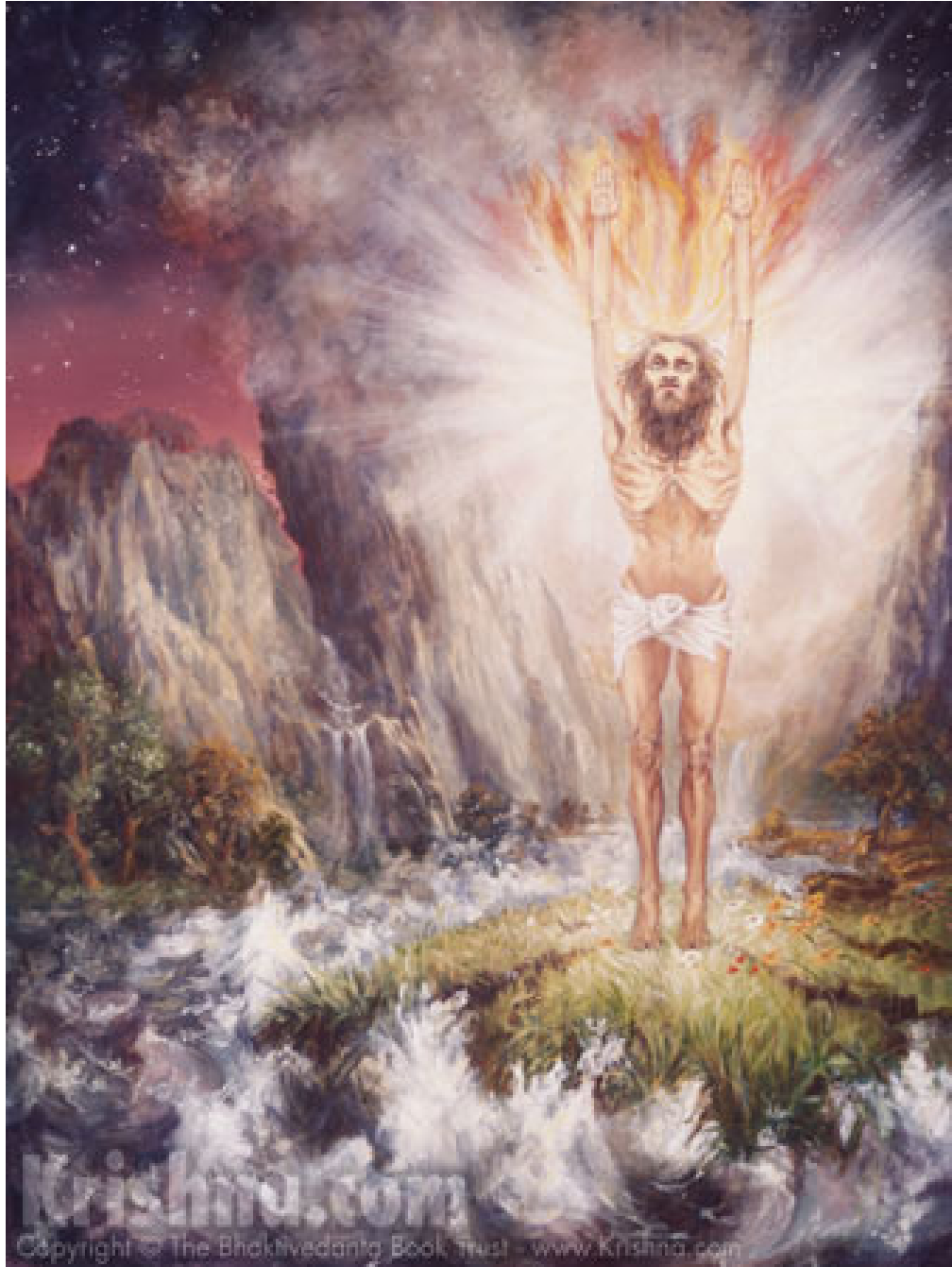
Jaya and Vijaya, took birth as Hiranyaksha and Hiranyakashipu in the womb of Mother Diti.



Later, Lord Varahadeva killed Hiranyaksha.



To become immortal Hiranyakashipu practiced severe type of austerity and meditation.



He satisfied Lord Brahma and obtained the
benedictions he desired.



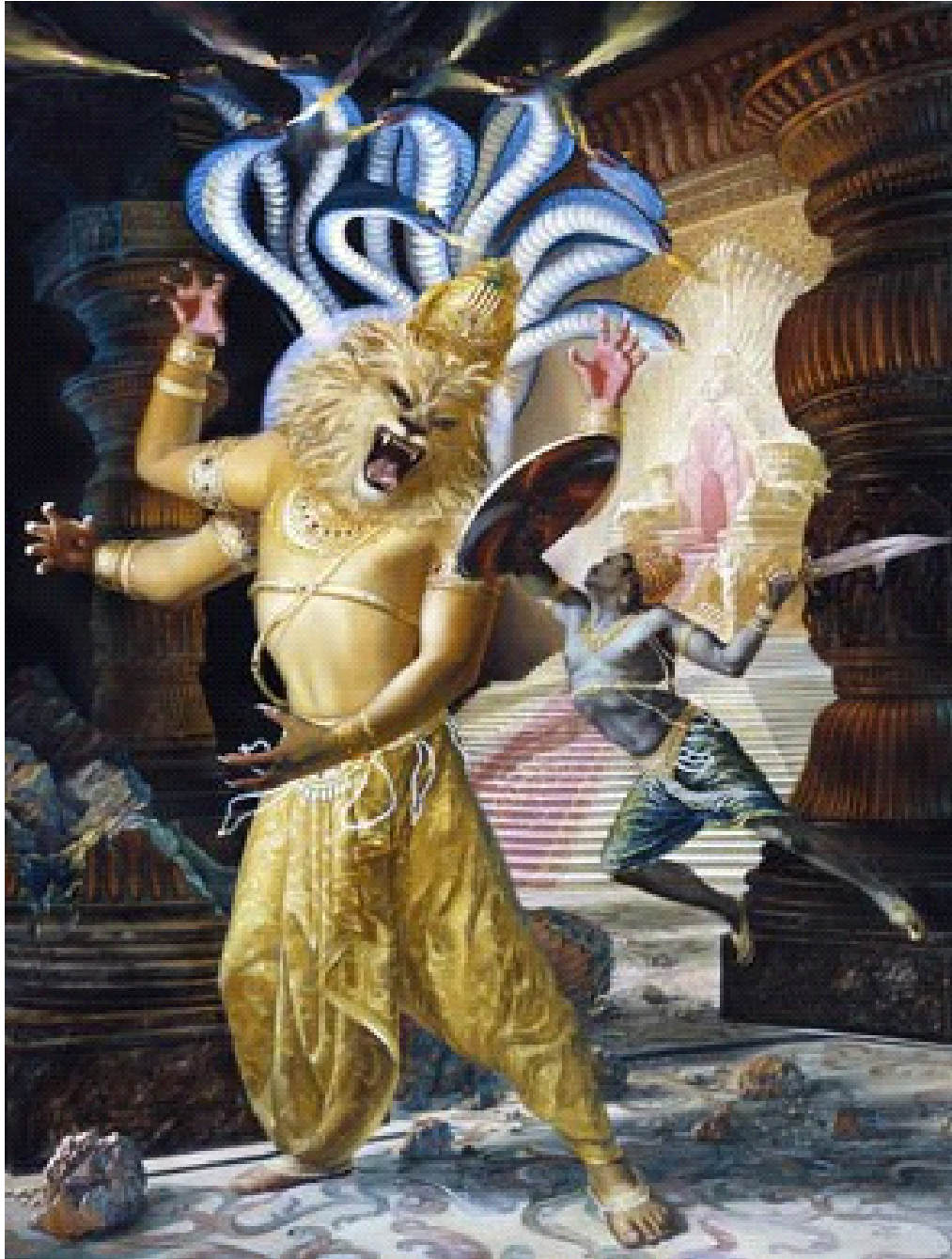
Fearful and disturbed by Hiranyakashipu's atrocities, demigods surrendered to Lord Visnu for protection.



Hiranyakashipu tortured his son Prahlada,
who was a devotee of Lord Vishnu.



To save Prahlada, Lord Narsimhadeva appeared from a pillar and fought with Hiranyakashipu.



Lord Narsimhadeva then killed
Hiranyakashipu with His nails.



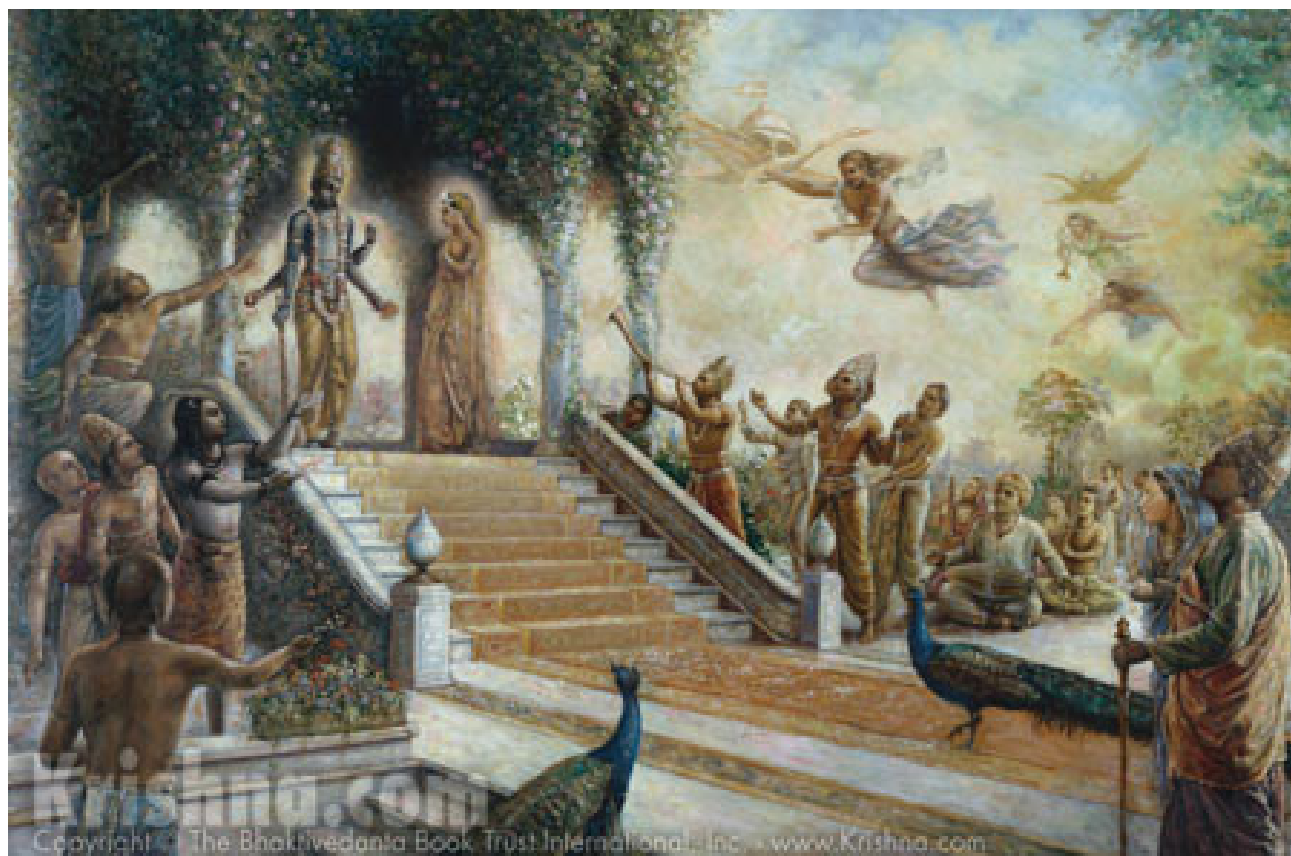
Jaya and Vijaya took their second birth as Ravana and Kumbhakarna. Later, Lord Rama killed Ravana and Kumbhakarna.




Jaya and Vijaya took their third birth as Dantavakra and Shishupala. Lord Krishna killed Dantavakra and Shishupala.



Thus, after three births Jaya and Vijaya
returned back to Vaikunthaloka.





Lord Kapiladeva

In Satya-yuga, Kardama Muni worshipped the Lord Vishnu through devotional service.



Being pleased with Kardama Muni, the Lord
Vishnu appeared.



Lord Vishnu informed him that his heart's desire would be fulfilled by Svayambhuva Munu who will come to see him.



Svayambhuva Manu visited Kardama Muni as foretold by Lord Vishnu and Kardama Muni married his daughter Devahuti.



Devahuti, served her husband with great love and care.

Pleased with Devahuti's services, Kardama Muni created an aerial mansion for her.



For the pleasure of Kardama Muni, Mother Devahuti's maidservants decorated her with very excellent and valuable jewels.



Mother Devahuti gave birth to nine daughters and a son (Lord Kapiladev). Kardama Muni married his nine daughters to nine sages.



Lord Kapila instructed His father, Kardama Muni.



After receiving instructions from the Lord Himself, Kardama Muni traveled over the surface of the globe as a sannyasi.



Then, Lord Kapila instructed His mother,
Devahuti about Sankhya philosophy.



Mother Devahuti, inquired from Lord Kapila about devotional service and Lord Kapila instructed Mother Devahuti.



Mother Devahuti prays to the Supreme Lord.



After instructing His mother, Lord Kapila left home to practice devotional service.



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Markendya Rishi

Markandeya Rishi was a great devotee of
Lord Sri Hari.



He worshiped Lord Hari for six lifetimes of
Manu.



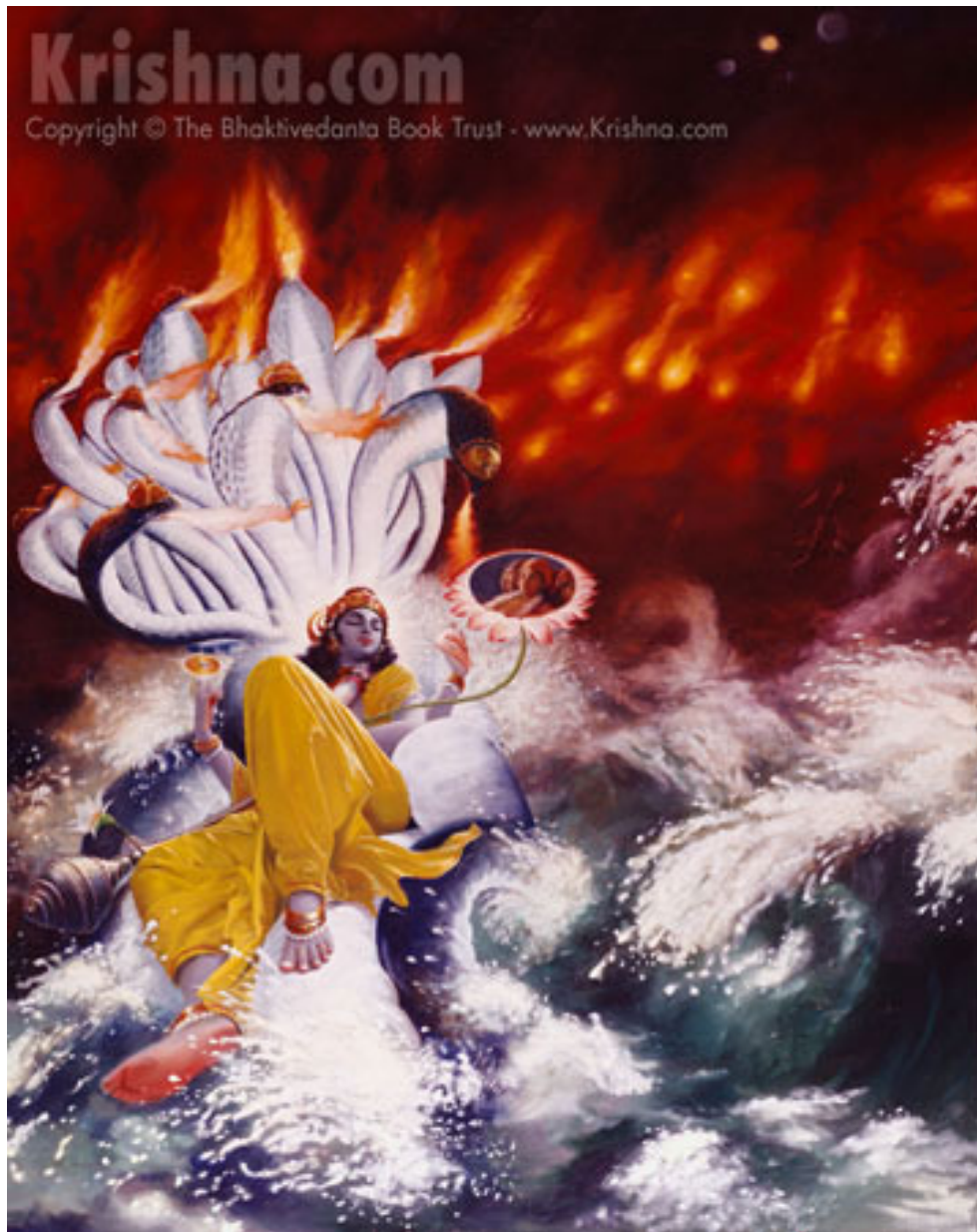
King Indra being envious of the Rishi, sent Kamadeva and his associates to interrupt Markandeya Rishi's austerities.



But the Rishi defeated them by the potency generated from his penance. Pleased with Markandeya Rishi, Lord Hari appeared before him in the form of Nara-Narayana.



Lord Hari granted Markandeya Rishi's desire to see the Lord's illusory energy. One day, the water of devastation suddenly flooded the three worlds.



With great difficulty Markandeya Rishi moved about for a long time in this water, until he came upon a banyan tree. Lying upon a leaf of that tree was an infant boy glowing with charming effulgence.

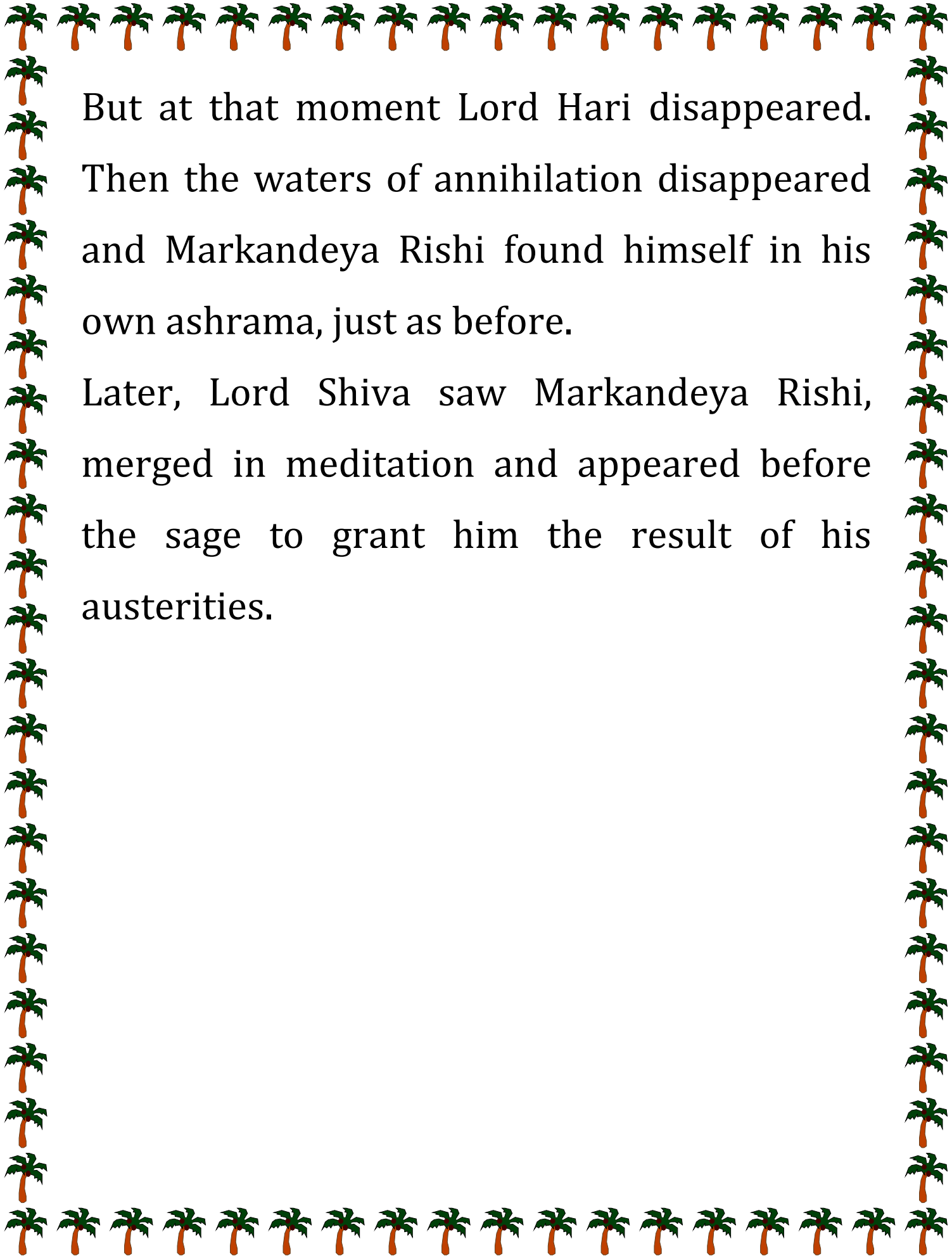


As Markandeya Rishi moved toward the leaf, he was pulled by the boy's inhalation. Inside the boy's body, Markandeya Rishi was amazed to see the entire universe just as it had been before the annihilation.



After a moment the sage was carried out by the force of the child's exhalation and hurled back into the ocean of annihilation. Then, seeing that the child on the leaf was actually Sri Hari, Markandeya Rishi tried to embrace Him.





But at that moment Lord Hari disappeared.
Then the waters of annihilation disappeared
and Markandeya Rishi found himself in his
own ashrama, just as before.

Later, Lord Shiva saw Markandeya Rishi,
merged in meditation and appeared before
the sage to grant him the result of his
austerities.



Markandeya Rishi begged from Lord Shiva,
unflinching devotion to the Supreme Lord, Sri
Hari.



Satisfied with the Rishi, Lord Shiva awarded him many boons.





Natysa Avatar

This is the story of how the Lord Krishna
once incarnated as a fish.



This happened when demon name Hayagriva stole the Vedas from Lord Brahma.



At around the same time there lived a King named Satyavrata Maharaj. King Satyavrata,

performed great austerities on the bank of the Krtamala River. While offering oblations of water with the palm of his hand, he found a small fish.



The fish grew bigger and bigger, so the King put the fish into the sea. The fish was none other than Lord Vishnu.



In due course of time, annihilation took place, and the King saw a large golden fish

appeared in the ocean of inundation. The King and the learned brahmanas and saintly persons saw a boat coming near and they all boarded it.



The King anchored the boat to the horn of the fish and offered prayers to the Supreme Lord in the form of a fish.



The Supreme Lord is situated in everyone's heart and thus Lord taught the King all about Vedic knowledge from the core of the heart.



When the flood was over, the Lord killed the demon Hayagriva.



Then the Lord returned the Vedas to Brahma.



Narada Muni

Narada Muni in his previous birth was the son of a maidservant.



He was then engaged in the service of
brahmanas and thus received their blessing.



Due to his devotional service, at the end of that life, he got a spiritual body.



He was then born as son of Lord Brahma. The Supreme Lord personally gifted a vina to Narada Muni.



Narada Muni received the knowledge of
Srimad Bhagavatam from Lord Bramha.



Narada Muni, the transcendental preacher
travels all over the world singing the glories
of the Supreme Lord Hari.



Narada Muni instructed Vyasadeva to
compile Srimad Bhagavatam.



Narada Muni also instructed Dhruva Maharaj



..... Prahlada Maharaj in his mother's womb



.... Mrigari, the hunter



.....Maharaj Yudhistira



... King Chitraketu



...King Prachanibarishat...



... the Precetas



and others.

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Parikshit Maharaj

After the battle of Kurushetra, when Lord Krishna was preparing to leave Hastinapura, Uttara, the mother of Parikshit Maharaj, hurried toward Lord Krishna in fear of the brahmastra released by Ashvathama.



To protect the progeny of the Kuru dynasty,
Lord Krishna covered the embryo of Uttara
by His personal energy.

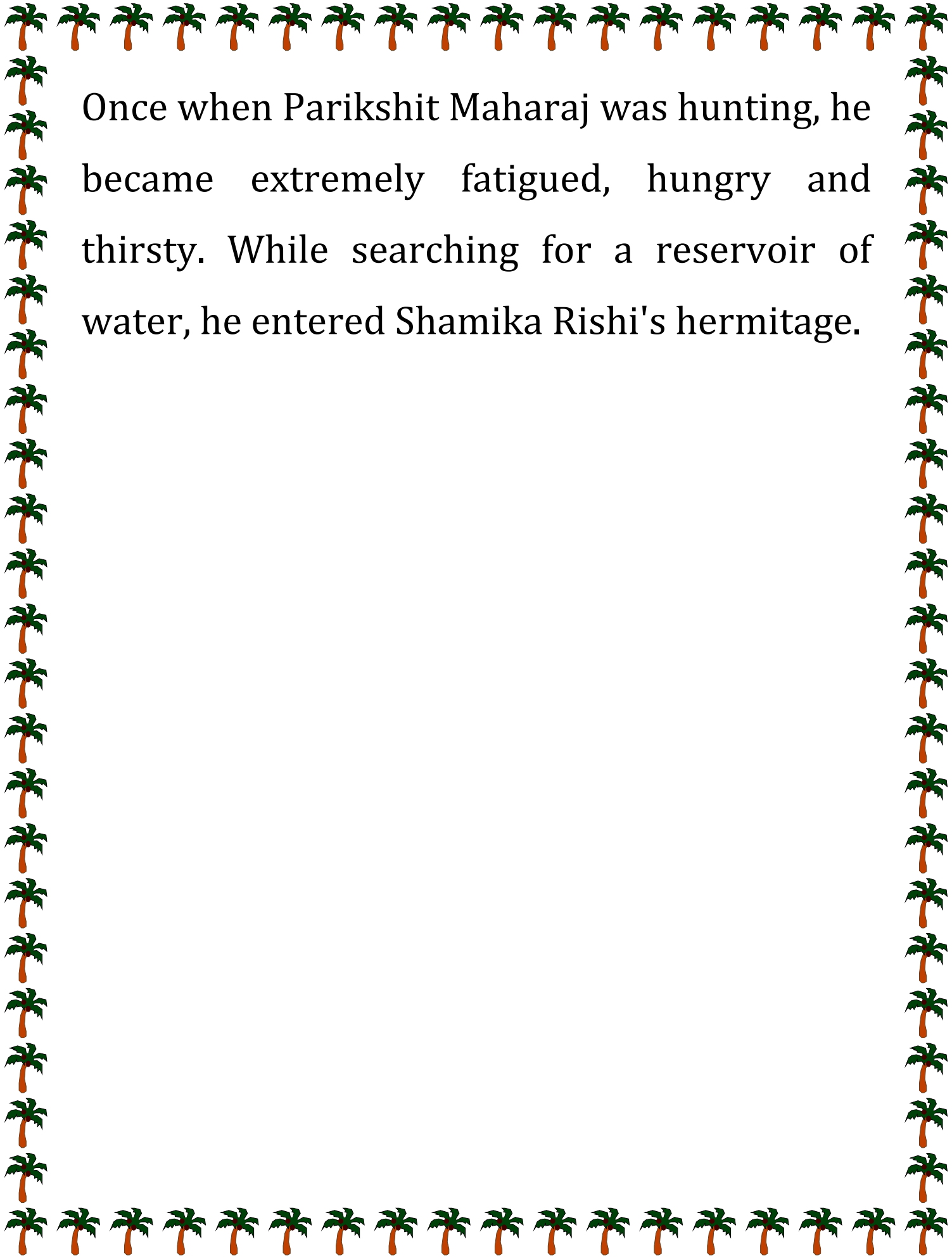


After the disappearance of Lord Krishna from the material world, Yudhisthira Maharaj enthroned Parikshit Maharaj as the King of the world and retired to the forest.



As the emperor of the world, Parikshit Maharaj was a powerful ruler and even chastised Kali.



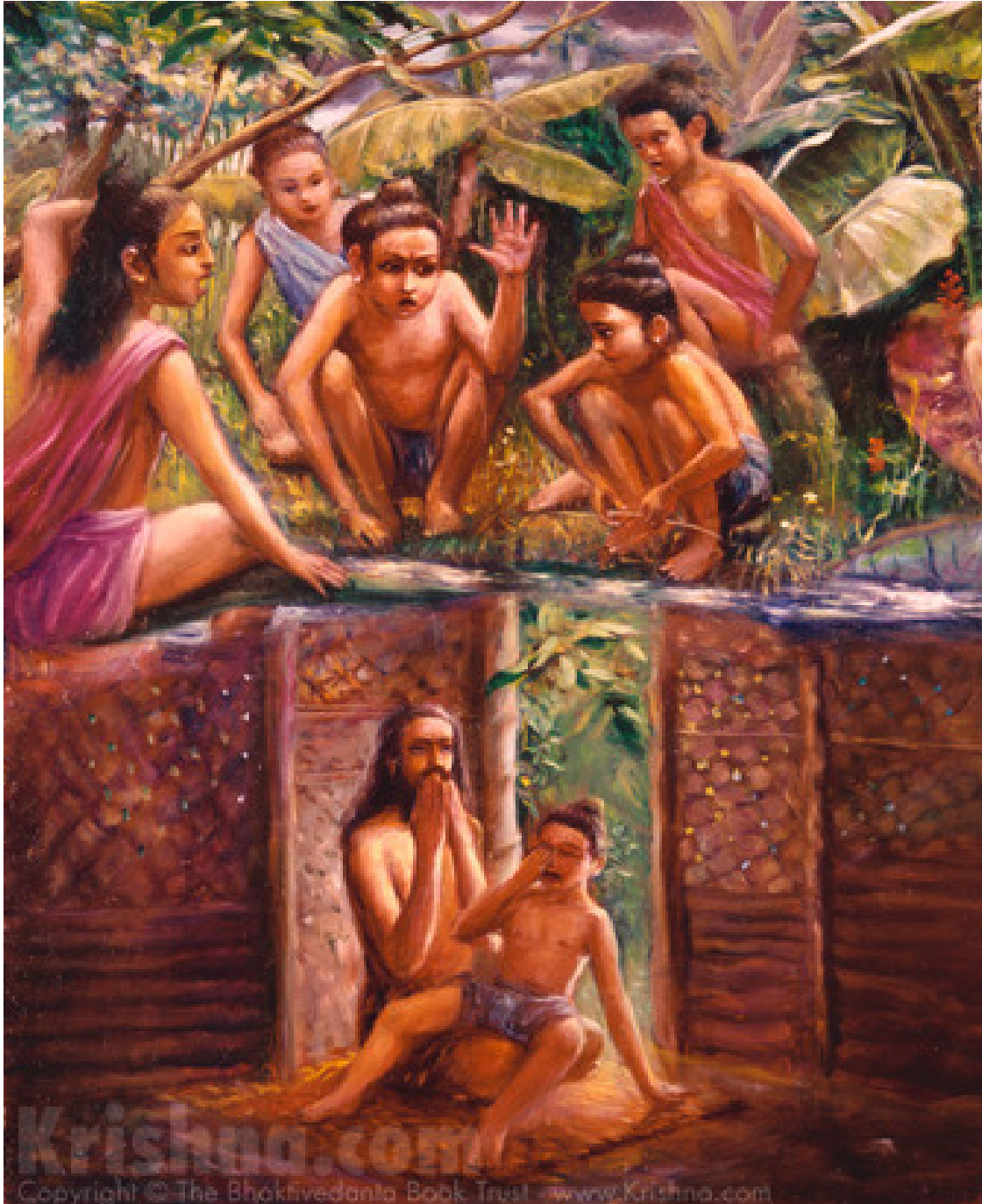


Once when Parikshit Maharaj was hunting, he became extremely fatigued, hungry and thirsty. While searching for a reservoir of water, he entered Shamika Rishi's hermitage.

When Parikshit Maharaj was not received by any formal welcome, he picked up a lifeless snake and angrily placed it on the shoulder of the sage.



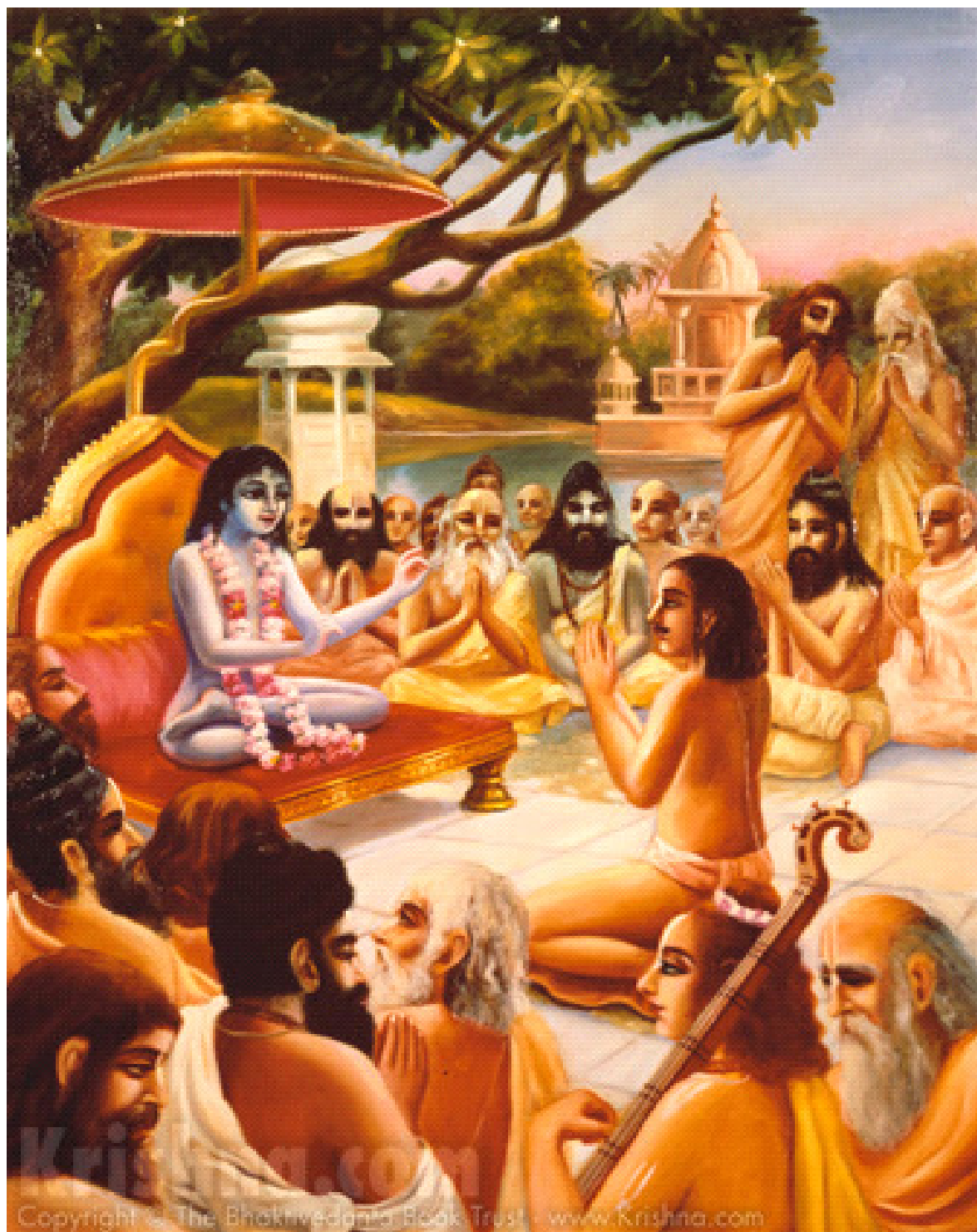
When the Rishi's son heard of his father's distress, he cursed Parikshit Maharaj to die in seven days.



Hearing about the curse, Parikshit Maharaj left for forest to fast till death and accepted Sukhdeva Goswami as his spiritual master and inquired from him submissively.



Sukhdeva Goswami instructed the Srimad
Bhagavatam to Parikshit Maharaj.



Parikshit Maharaj attained perfection by hearing the Srimad Bhagavatam.



After hearing the Srimad Bhagavatam,
Parikshit Maharaj passed away while
meditating on Lord Krishna.



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Pracetas

Prachinabarhi, the father of the Pracetas, ordered the Pracetas to marry and beget children. Following the order, the Pracetas entered the ocean to practice austerities and penances.